Stationing NSG's at all State capitals

*22. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several people died in terrorist attack on Akshardham Temple in Gujarat recently (September, 2002);

(b) the time taken by NSG commandos to reach Ahmedabad from Delhi and start the operation; and

(c) whether Government propose to station NSGs at all State capitals to tackle such terrorists' attacks without wasting time in flight for their movements from Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The NSG team took 1 hour 30 minutes to reach Ahmedabad from Delhi. The team left Delhi Airport at 2030 hrs. on 24.09.02 and landed at Ahmedabad at 2200 hrs.

NSG team reached Gandhinagar at 2230 hrs. Between 2230 to 0030 hrs. they were briefed by the State Government Officials and they carried out recce of the place. The operation was launched at 0100 hrs. on 25.09.02.

(c) No, Sir.

Stagnation of underground Mining

*23. SHRI GAYA SINGH:

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the underground mining of coal has stagnated over a decade resulting in increase in coal imports;

(b) if so, the details of the production from underground coal mines in the country during the last ten years and imports of coal during those years; and

(c) whether Government have plans to increase production of coal from underground mines; if so, the details thereof?